

paternity leave grows stronger after the recent passage of the maternity leave bill in Rajya Sabha, Women and Child Development Minister Maneka Gandhi has said that such a legislation will have little impact in India, where men do not even avail their existing leave entitlements to share the responsibly of child care.



care of child

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Maneka said, "Paternity leave can be considered only if, once the woman goes back to work after her 26 weeks of leave, we find that men are availing their sick leave for a month to take care of the child. Let me see

that the Ministry of Labour and Employment mooted the Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 2016, which increases the period of leave for new mothers from the existing 12 weeks to 26 weeks in the organised sector. It also allows 12 weeks of leave to mothers going in for adoption or commissioning a child through



Actor-politician Ramya

A SEDITION complaint has been filed in a magistrate's court in Karnataka's Kodagu district against actor-politician Divya Spandana aka Ramya for saying that "Pakistan is not hell, people there are like us".

Ramya, a former Congress MP from Mandya, had made the comment after returning from Pakistan, where she had gone for

Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar, who recently said that

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

THE IDEAS PAGE

**'I STAND BY MY
REMARKS, SEE NO
REASON TO APOLOGISE'**

PAGE 9



THE INDIAN EXPRESS

DATE 24-08-2016

PAGE NO. 1&2

Few takers for country's first Hindi engineering course

MILIND GHATWAI
BHOPAL, AUGUST 23

"Samataliya sangami bal; Thonso ka prakshep tatha sataho ka parivardhan; Samapariman prakshadh."

IF YOU have figured out these terms, chances are that a red carpet would be rolled out for you at the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Hindi Vishwavidyalaya (ABVHV) in Bhopal, where the engineering (abhiyantriki) course is being offered only in Hindi — a first for the country — from this aca-

ademic session.

And if you haven't, you're in good company too: staff have had a tough time even finalising the first-year syllabus in Hindi and have had to rely on a host of dictionaries and government publications to find the right words for engineering parlance.

The university had invited applications for translators but gave up after realising that most of them relied on what the course is meant to get rid off — English terminology. "We thought it's easier to write it ourselves than trying to correct what they had written," said an official on con-

PAGE ONE
ANCHOR

dition of anonymity.

Besides promoting Hindi, the university, a pet project of the BJP government in Madhya Pradesh, is driven by the larger aim of "instilling nationalism" by carrying out studies and research in the language.

But if the initial response is anything to go by, there are virtually no takers for the engineering course, with apprehensions



Atal Bihari Vajpayee Hindi Vishwavidyalaya will roll out the only-Hindi engineering course

stemming as much from the lack of job prospects as from negotiating the web of nomenclature that sounds arcane even to the initiated. Sources said that no more than a dozen students have applied for the 90 seats that are available in Nagar (Civil), Vaidyut (Electrical) and Yantrik (Mechanical) streams this year.

Authorities, though, are undeterred. "Even if we get just one student, we are committed to starting the course from this year. We are swimming against the tide. English took root 250 years ago, Hindi will require a few years to catch up," ABVHV

Vice-Chancellor, Prof Mohanlal Chhepa, told *The Indian Express*.

"About 80 per cent of engineering students in MP come from rural areas and are comfortable only in Hindi medium. Students who enrol with us will have no difficulty because we will provide them online access to dictionaries for quick translation," said a senior official involved in the admission process, adding that those who were questioning the university's preparedness were "anti-Hindi."

The university has also had to answer queries from prospective

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

First Hindi engineering course

admission process are not sure where classes will be held. While the foundation stone for a proposed 50-acre campus was laid at Mugalia Kot village on the outskirts of Bhopal in 2013, the university, as of now, operates out of two rented premises — classes are held at the old Vidhan Sabha building while its administrative office is located at Patanjali Bhavan in the Bhoj university campus. As such, the engineering wing has no space of its own.

The V-C, though, said classes will be held in Patanjali Bhavan. He also said that

the university has a bigger objective than just ensuring employment. "We want our students to be job-givers, not job-seekers. The British used to link education to jobs because they wanted trained employees for their administration. We want to create thinkers," he said.

As for the language troubles, the V-C said, "You don't learn swimming without getting into water. Students will learn Hindi terminology once they begin using it".

And in case you're still struggling with those Hindi terms, here's the translation: "Coplanar concurrent force; Projection of solids and development of surfaces; Isometric projection."